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Letter No. 2336

October 29, 1987

USSR AG
TARGETS FOR
1988

Agricultural production targets for 1988 were announced by the Chairman of the USSR's State Planning Committee on October 19, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1988, grain production is planned to reach 235 million tons; vegetable oil production is to be increased by 700,000 tons over the 1987 level; sugar beet output is to be raised by 14 percent above 1987, at 91 million tons. The grain target includes 98 million acres to be grown under the system of intensive technology, and the Soviets expect to improve yields between 881 and 1763 pounds of grain per acre.

U.S. EXPORTS
RISE \$1.1 BILLION

A larger U.S. share of world trade helped push U.S. agricultural export value in the first 11 months of fiscal 1987 to \$25 billion 500 million. The volume rose 17 million tons over the year-earlier level to 118 million, largely due to a growing share of world grain sales and a rise in the total volume of grain traded on international markets. In volume, U.S. grain and feed exports rose 14 million tons; oilseeds and product exports rose 1 million 500 thousand tons; and cotton exports rose more than 800,000 tons. Exports remained well below the peak levels of the early 1980's.

CEREAL SHORTFALLS
IN 69 COUNTRIES

Cereal shortfalls for 1987/88 in 69 developing countries have nearly tripled from the July estimate, as the worst monsoon season in recent decades has sharply reduced Asian cereal production. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shortfalls are now placed at 26 million 200 thousand tons, with those in Asia accounting for 90 percent of the 17 million 400 thousand-ton rise. In Sub-Saharan Africa, cereal shortfalls are placed at 5 million 300 thousand tons, more than 3 million above 1986/87. To meet minimum nutrition standards in 1987/88, the 69 developing countries are estimated to be short 42 million tons of cereals, up 25 million from assessed needs in 1986/87.

ARGENTINA WHEAT
TO IRAN

The Argentine government recently announced a 1-year agreement with Iran to deliver 1 million tons of wheat in 1987/88 -- double last year's shipments, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This agreement level accounts for nearly 20 percent of the current USDA export estimate for Argentina of 5 million tons for 1987/88. The U.S. has not exported wheat to Iran since 1981/82.

U.S. IMPORTS
TOP \$20 BILLION

Higher livestock product imports in the first 11 months of fiscal 1987 helped boost the U.S. agricultural import forecast for all of fiscal 1987 to \$20 billion 500 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CORN TO USSR

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 600,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1987/88 marketing year and under the fifth year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement signed on August 25, 1983. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the fifth year of the agreement which ends September 30, 1988, total 1 million 540,000 tons of which wheat is 65,000 tons and corn is 1 million 475,000 tons. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the fourth year of the agreement, which ended September 30, 1987, totaled just over 8 million tons of which wheat was just over 4 million tons and corn just over 4 million tons.

GATT IN
URUGUAY

In regards to the upcoming Uruguay round of GATT talks, Secretary of Agriculture Richard R. Lyng and Special U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter issued a statement, reading in part: "The United States believes that all contracting parties, the United States, the European Community and all other GATT members should work together to ensure that the Uruguay Round will lead to the kind of agricultural trading system the world desperately needs."

CONSERVATION
RESERVE REDUCES

The Conservation Reserve Program is reducing erosion by keeping approximately 467 million tons of soil annually on the nearly 23 million acres of land contracted in the program so far, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This represents about 16 percent of all the soil erosion that occurs annually on cultivated cropland. When the program goal of retiring 40-45 million acres of highly erodible land is met by 1990, the Program should reduce erosion on all cultivated land by 25 percent.

TIPS ON
EXPORTING
LIVESTOCK

How much penicillin, tetracycline, tranquilizers and other drugs and equipment are necessary to accompany a shipload of 1,000 head of cattle overseas? What if you're shipping by air transport? How much shipping space is required for cattle, sheep or horses? For free copies of fact sheets on exporting livestock, contact: USDA Office of Transportation, Export Services Branch, Room 1405 Auditor's Bldg., Wash., D.C. 20250. Or call 202-653-6317. The information is also available electronically through the USDA ONLINE service under "Animal Health Information."

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1587...With the threat of famine once again in Ethiopia and in other parts of the world scientist are doing more research than ever before on solving the world's food problems. Jim Johnson talks with two of the scientists in the forefront of the research effort.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1576...USDA news highlights; heavy rains hamper Soviet harvest; More on "sodbuster" law; The EC hormone ban; Growing Asian vegetables.

CONSUMER TIME #1067...Another famine?; Smoking on the decline; "The Long Goodbye"; Turkey: Reading the labels; Acid mine drainage.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs., Nov. 4, Fruit Outlook; Mon., Nov. 9, U.S. Crop Production, Soviet Crop Outlook, World Supply and Demand; Tues., Nov. 10, Weather and Crop Update, World Crop Production, World Oilseed Situation, World Cotton Situation; Fri., Nov. 13, Milk Production, Farm Labor, Cotton World Outlook.

TELEVISION SERVICE programs. A BETTER WAY, DOWN TO EARTH, AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and SATELLITE NEWS are available on satellite Westar IV, Audio 6.2 or 6.8 as follows:

Thursdays....AG UPDATE/SATELLITE NEWS, 7:30-7:45 p.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

Saturdays...A BETTER WAY, 10:00-10:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

ORIGINAL DOWN TO EARTH, 10:30-11:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 9X

UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

Mondays.....A BETTER WAY, 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

REPEAT DOWN TO EARTH, 8:30-9:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 12D

UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 9:00-9:15 a.m. ET....Transponder 12D

A BETTER WAY is also available on The Learning Channel SATCOM 3R, Transponder 2, Audio 6.8 each Friday 11:00 a.m. ET.

Mark Vail (Kansas Ag Net, Topeka) called to say he had just talked with Lisa Ray at John Hopkins Hospital to find out about husband Bill (Agrinet, Richmond, VA). We called and Bill answered. We told him we were surprised, because we understood he had been operated on the day before. Bill reported they had found a spot on his lung, determined it was isolated, and removed about a third of the lung. "They don't mess around here, and they get you up and around fast." Bill said he thought he'd picked up a bug in the MidEast while he was there with the feed grains people, and went in for tests. In the course of the 7 days ordeal, they took an x-ray and found the spot ... Craighton Knau (KMA, Shenandoah, IA) and wife Betty just returned from two weeks in Europe. They spent four days at the Cologne Food Show than took some time to play tourists in Bavaria and Frankfurt. About the food show, Craighton reports "Two U.S. items just about stole the show, chocolate chip cookies and popcorn" ... Thanks to Mark Vail and arrangements

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he helped us make, you can get some live satellite coverage from the Outlook Conference, Dec. 1-3. Here's the schedule: Dec. 1, 10:30-12:30 (EST) Sec'y of Ag Richard-Lyng and others open the conference; 1:30-2:30, Trade outlook, issues and challenges. Speakers include Aart de Zeeuw, Chrmn, GATT Committee on Agriculture; Dec. 2, 11:00-12:15, Generic Certificates and Certificate Policy Issues and Outlook, various speakers; and Dec. 3, 10:45-12:00 Distinguished Panel on Trade and Policy Directions, moderated by Sec'y Lyng and including: Senator Rudy Boschwitz, Minnesota; Representative Thomas S. Foley, Washington; Representative E. Kika de la Garza Texas; and Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont. You can downlink this for radio (sorry no TV) from Westar IV, Transponder 2X, IF Frequency 64.3 Mhz, 2:1 Companding, 75 sec. Preemphasis. Don't ask us what all that means, but your engineers will understand.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division